HAWAII'S FIERY PEAKS.

THREATENING ERUPTION.

ETERNAL SNOW AND ETERNAL FIRE SIDE BY SIDE IN THE HOME OF THE GODDESS PELE.

NAUNA LOA'S RENEWED ACTIVITY-THE BOWL OF KILAUEA BRIMMING OVERFULL OF FIRE-PACT AND FICTION CON-CERNING THE GREAT VOLCANOUS.

The Hawniian Islands possess probably a greater variety of climate and diversity of natural features than any other group of islands of like extent in all the world. But the one dominant feature for which they are best known and most farmed is to be found in their mountain peaks and volcanoes. While many other Pacific Ist ands are of coral formation, these are distinctly volcanic. Each member of the group has one or more commanding peaks. On the largest, Hawaii tseif, are the stupendous cones of Mauna Lon and Mauna Ken, which rival the loftiest of the Alps. and far outrants any other island mountains in the world save the lately discovered peak in Papua. Here also is Kilanea, on the side of Mauna Loa, making with the sammit crater of the latter the largest two active volcanoes in the while just across the channel, in Mani, towers the gigantic Halcakala, an extinct volcano surpassing Mount Etna in size and grandeur.

Kilanea is always active, and at the present ime seems threatening another serious eruption. latest mail advices from Hawaii tell that the erater has for some time been seething and bubbling, and sending up magnificent fountain jets of fire that are visible for miles. Venture visitors, going to the edge, found the flery bowl more than full, the molten lava at the centre being several feet higher than at the Now and then it would flow over and pour down the slope of the mountain-side for distance, until it cooled, formed a crust, and thus dammed up the torrent. Earthquake shocks were frequent, and there were all the symptoms of an impending cruption. This fact. owever, caused no panie, but rather attracted hosts of visitors, eager to witness the incomparable

There is probably nowhere on the globe scene more awe-inspiring and dreadfully sublime than that presented by the crater of Haleakala Round about the mountain and on its slopes is Paradise. You ride for hours amid the semi Up to the very tropical verdute and bloom. summit there is not a sign of what lies just beyoud the mountain rim. You reach the top ten thousand feet in air, and glance back over : glorious panerama of land and ocean, and involuntarily murmur:

"Summer isles of Eden lying in dark purple

spheres of sea." And then you look before you and see "the barren beach of Hell at ebb tide." At your feet les a stupendous chasm 3,000 feet deep and more than six miles wide. In its desolate expanse al most any of the great cities of the world could find room to be swallowed up. Placed upon its the tallest peaks of the Catskills could scarcely be seen above its sulphurous parapet. And in all its gloomy recesses there is not a tree nor a shrub nor a flower nor a blade of grass. There is no living object. No bird even flies It lies there in eternal silence and eternal death, lifted high up toward the heavens of perpetual summer, a frown upon the smiling face of nature, the Absmination of Desolation in the midst of Paradise. Not even the awful lake of fire on Mauna Loa so thrills the beholder with fear and dread as this dead erater.

"It is Hell with the fires out" said one visitor. everently crossing himself, as he first gazed upon

its gloomy douths. From the crest of Halcakala one can see the lofty peaks of Hawaii, forty miles away, seemfloating in midair. Crossing the channel and landing at Hilo, one makes his way toward the peak of Mauns Los through a literal jungle of luxuriant tropical vegetation. I ven the lava. which, cold and hard as flint, covers miles of the land, is densely overgrown with shrubs. It is ride of thirty miles, and one should take two days for it; and he may lie awake the night hetween them and see fitful dashes of volcanic fire playing on the heights above him, like shee lightning on the edges of a distant thunder cloud. The lake of fire, Halemauman, is not at the summit of Mauna Lea, but on its side, only 4,000 feet up. It is at one side of the vast crater called Kilauca. On the very brink of this abyss stands a hotel, the Volcano House, from the windows of which one may look down into the pit 3,000 feet; and across it, three miles, to where an ominous blue cloud forever floats

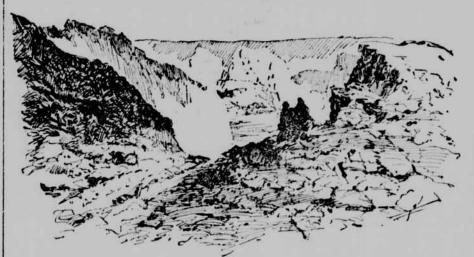
above the bosom of Halemaumau.

It is a difficult descent from the hotel to the floor of the crater. At first there is a little vege tation, but after that, for 2,500 feet down, and then for three miles across, Kelanea is as barren and as desolate as Halenitaln itself. There is nothing but lava, black, shining, glossy, lying in funtastic folds and waves. No pen can describ the sensation which the visitor feels in treading upon such a floor and marching across it for miles. He does not think "the dust we tread upon was once alive'; no, but it was once a seething, flery moss, to approach which would have been justant death. And even now there are ominous fissures and bubbles, hot and menaing. And who knows at what moment the Goddess Pele may stir the whole again into a fervent But with a self-surprising courage one keeps on, straight across, to where, close by the further wall, a smaller crater lies within the

This is Halemanman. One climbs the rugged rampart of volcanic rocks a handred feet high, walls, an eval, perhaps 200 by 500 feet in size. Its level bottom is a dull red here and there, but mostly black. The air is hot as the breath of than molten iron. The waves thunder against the dreadful flood. Yet with fearful fascination one their heathen worship and accepted Christianity elings to the rock, and watches the gory spray, and listens to the raving thunder of the flery to be told. On November 5, 1880, there was surf, with never a thought of danger.

THE STORY OF PELE.

This lake of fire was, in Hawaiian mythology, the home of Pele, the goddess of volcanoes. She came, in ancient days, from her first home in Samon, with her six sisters and her brother. ettled at Monnalua, in Onhu. Thence she moved to Kalaupapa, in Molokai. Thence she went up to the House of the Sun, Haleakala. And, finally, she came to Halemaumau. Here, in the cone-shaped craters of Kilanea, she and her family lived, and amused themselves with playing checkers and dancing to the music of the roaring surf of lire. No other deity was so greatly feared. No one dared to approach the mountain without first making her an offering of ohelo berries. And when in her anger she caused an eruption of the volcanic fires whole droves of pigs and other sacrifices were thrown into the lava streams as peace offerings. At times she and her sisters left the fires and ascended to



HALEMAUMAU.

her intention of defying the wrath of Pele on the very brink of Halemauman. Her husband and friends vainly sought to dissuade her; and vainly an aged priestess warned her back, with prophecies of destruction. She steadlastly proceeded, followed by a band of clighty trembling fellow-converts, who would have turned back in dismay but for her example and leadership. To the very brink of the lake of the she led them, and there sang a Christian hymn, and returned in safety. From that time faith in and fear of Pele have declined, until now there are but few believers in her power.

THE VOLCANO IN POLITICS.

The most notable eruption of Kilanea occurred in Navember, 1790, and had an important influence upon the subsequent political history of the islands. Two chieftains, Keona and Kamelameba were contending in war for the supreme ralership of Hawaii, and the former seemed sertain of victory. Setting out from Hilo, he marched towara Kau by a road leading near Kilanea. While the army was encamped near the crater a terrific earthquake occurred, a black cloud made the hoonday as dark as midnight and there was a fearful rain of black sand and sales, like that which buried Pompeii and Herculaneum. When the cruption was ended one third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, third of K third of Keoua's followers were found to be dead, buried and suffocated in the sand and ashes. Some were found lying down, some standing, some



A FISSURE IN THE LAVA BEDS.

in the act of fleeing for safety, some embrac ing their wives and children. This was a death blow to Keona's cause. It was taken as a sign that the mighty Pele was on Kamehamehan side. And the next year Keona was slain, and Kameh.meba became lord of Hawan and founder the dynasty which has ended with the fall of Liliuokalani. In 1801 there was a great crup tion of Hualalai, at the other side of Mauni Loa, which destroyed many villages and filled up a lake. Countless pigs were sacrificed to Pele, but in vain. At last Kamehameha cut off half of his own hair, which was considered sacred, and threw it into the lava flood, and then the eruption ceased.

Again in 1840 Kilaues, which had been quiet fo fifty years, burst forth with awful fury. stream of molten lava burrowed underground from the crater twelve miles to the coast at Nanawale where it flowed into the sca. For three week it raged, bursting from its burrow to the surface of the ground at various points and destroying several villages, though not one life was lost The light from the crater was so intense that at a distance of forty miles one could, by its aid, read the finest print at midnight.

Most of the great eruptions, however, have con from Mekuaweowee, the huge crater at the summit of Mauna Loa. It is usually entirely quiet, except and looks within. It is a huge bowl, with rough at the times of actual eruption, while Kilauer is never still for more than an hour. About one in nine years there is a great outburst from Mokua weoweo. One of the most famous of all was thu an oven and still as the grave, and an awfel of 1855. The lava flow broke, on August 11 ellence prevails. Then a flash of fire, like light- from the northeastern side of the mountain, a ning, plays across it from shore to shore. Then a height of twelve thousand feet, and continued the floor of half-cooled lava breaks up like ice in with unabated energy until November 22 of the the floor of half-cooled lava breaks up like ice in a freshet. The huge blocks are tossed about like bubbles. In a moment the entire lake is a furnace, nay, a crucible. It foams and boils and surges. It is a molten mass, blood red or glowing orange. Crimson surf dashes against the rocks in breakers forty feet high, and fiery spray case fellow for above the great of the removal. goes flying far above the crest of the ramparis; of destruction made its way straight toward Hilo so that the spectators seek shelter behind masses and reached a point within a few miles of that of lava and in rude caves. There are literally town. A great panic arose among the people series of melted rock boiling furiously, hotter. The Rev. Dr. Titus Coan, who was fach at the head of the Christian mission there, held a special service of prayer for the preservation of the town. walls, like the waves of the ocean in a winter service of prayer for the preservation of the town. And the next day the joyful news went abroad term, and rush furiously into the caverns they nave made in the rock under the very feet of that the flow of lava had indeed stopped. Many the startled visitor. Another moment and the undermined rampart may topple over into that or coincidence, that they immediately abjured

A curious sequel to this story, however, is also another tremendous eruption, and again the lave another tremendous eruption, and again the lava flowed straight toward Hilo. For months it made its way unchecked, and came to within a mile of the town. The inhabitants prepared to fice. Prayer seemed of no avail. But then an aged priestess went out to meet it, with the incantations and rites of the old religion, and threw innumerable pigs into the advancing torrent. Whereupon, to her great joy and the amazement of the whole populace, on August 10, 1881, the flow stopped and the town was saved.

THE OUTBREAK OF MAUNA LOA

Another great eruption occurred on March 27 1868, accompanied by a series of earthquake shocks that wrecked balf the villages on the whole island. Then a vast quantity of mud was discharged from the mountain, pouring for three miles down the slope in a stream thirty feet deep and half a mile wide, and burying a great num ber of human beings and animals. Then a tidal wave fifty feet high rolled in from the ocean and swept away a dozen villages. The crater of Kilausa poured out its lava through underground channels. Finally, on April 7, the crater

diameter. They boiled with the most errice fury, throwing an enormous colorums of errimson lava and redhot rocks to a beight of five or six bundred feet. Sometimes the jet ceased to play for a few minutes; and then urgest by the accumulated force, from below, the united fountains burst forth teacher—a wave of rouring

THE LATEST GREAT ERUPTION.

The cruption of 1886.81 was gleantic, but not The cruntion of 1886-81 was giventic, but not so destructive of life and property as its pre decessors. It came down almost to fillo, but stopped, cariously enough, at a stone wall about five feet high, which had been hastily thrown up in hope of saving a lirge and valuable snear-mill. "The laya-stream," says an observer, "came within from two to six feet of the stane wall, and fell asleep under its shadow. At one point only the viscid mass, about two feet deep being urged forward by fresh supplies from be hind, it heaped itself up against the barrier, poured slowly over it a little, and then stiffened and solidified, where it now hangs, a

stiffened and schidified, where it now hangs, a sheet of pendent drapery in stone. The impulse from the mountain source fifty miles away had braught the stream accurately to this artificial limit and no further.

"Advancing four miles up the stream, we find it rent with deep crevasses, congegled in swirling hummocks and shaftered ridges, as if a mad sea, in the heirbit of the storm, had been solidified by some enchantment. Here the flamming river rushed down the steep descent at fearful sneed, shaftering and melting the rocks in its solidified by some enchantment Here the flaming river rushed down the steep descent at fearful speed, shattering and melting the rocks in its way, and sweeping every obstruction before it like a cavalry battation in a charge. Just above this steep descent there was a beautiful and fertile plot of land, where some twenty years ago force nestled a quifet village, with a school house, rich patches of kalo, potatoes, banamas and fruit trees among scenery of enchanting beauty. But the people have passed away; and of late years only one house was left on this lovely spot. Its occupant was reputed to be an inveterate heathen, belonging to the amenat caste of deviers or medicine men. When the barning flood set the deep forest ablaze behind the house of this man he housed his flag in front of this slowly caning flery column, and forbade it, in the name of the ancient gods of linwait, to pass that flar. But onward came the lava, regardless; while the heathen doctor, form time to time, was compelled to move his flag nearer and nearer to his house. At last the great flood rolled over his dwelling and his garden, destroving everything utterly, driving him out with his friends, and leaving a deep stratum of black lava over all. In this case a curious occurrence is noteworthy. The lava stream surrounded one stalk of green lado, growing on an islet of eighteen inches in diameter, and on another twice as broad a single banama plant; and these plants have survived the heat, and are growing finely, memorials of the garden from which the idelater was driven by the fire."

HOW THE LAVA FLOWS

The manner in which the flow is effected is thus described: "The roaring blasts of the nountain furnace are terrific, and the rush of the river of fire down the mountain side, from a height of nearly 14,000 feet, is sublime. For a long time this high mountain channel will remain open and filled with lava of great fluidity, so that the whole track of the lave, whether fifteen or thirty miles in length, may be seen traced upon the dome of Mauna Los from its summit to its base. All this river of fire is thus visible, throughout its whole extent, at a single glance and from enormous distances. At sea the light of an eruption from the summit crater may be of an eruption from the summit crater may be seen for more than 150 miles. 'Mauna Lea,' said Hamboldt, 'is the most striking example with which I am acquainted of the visibility of a mountain at a great distance.' This flow, like others, was at first uncovered, or sub-aerial. But its surface soon hardened, forming a thick crust like ice on a river, and under this crust the lava rushed downward, as water under heavy ice, retaining most of its heat during its cause of fifty miles. Thus the fiery stream may flow down the mountain for a full year or more, in this pyroduct, and flow unseen, except at a few points where openings in the roof of its covered way reveal the stream rushing down its burning track, and carrying destruction to the forests,

the summit of Maum Loa, to revel in the eternal shows that crown that mighty peak.

One day the court of Pele was visited by Kamapanaa, the "Child of a Pig." This huge monster, half bears, half shuman, was an adventurous divinity, who had for ages been wandering about, wading from island to island, wherever his swinish famey led. He became the great of Pele, and presently became a suitor for her land. He stood on the rampart of Haleman man and woosel her in a voice that drowned the thander. She rejected him with seom, and taunted him with being the offspring of a pig. Then a great haftle arose between them. She poured out fire and molten rocks against birm while he brought up the water of the sea to extinguish the flames. At first he prevailed and almost flooded the crater. But with a desperate effort. Pele and her sisters strank up the water and drove him into the sea, hurling at the her water of the sea to extinguish the flames. At first he prevailed and almost flooded the crater. But with a desperate effort. Pele and he sisters thank up the water and drove him into the sea, hurling at the her into the real raw between them. She poured out fire and mountains, which formed islands scattered afar over the Pacific.

The first person who ventured to descend into the eracter of Kilarea without first sceniling to Pele was the Hawaiian Princess Kapiolani, in 1825. She had become a Christian, and, to prove the falseness of the ancient myths, announced.

the rolling of smoke and steam, the darting of flames and the glare of the overhanging clouds were a sight passing the power of tongue or pen or pencil. Meanwhile the sullen flood of devouring fire was doing its work below; drinkin, up streams of water and obliterating their channels, dispersing springs and pools at a touel into flashes of vapor, filling up pits, caverns any gorges, overrunning the glades and overwhelming every obstacle in its path. The noise of its march was tremendous. All along the front of the advance the old rocks were exploding under the heat, and the confined water was finding its escape in steam. The rattle, as of muskerry and the boom of the heavier explosions were heard miles away. On one of my five visits to the flow I counted ten detonations in a minute. "The amount of lava thrown out of Mauna Loa during the aine mouths of the cruntion, from November, 1880, to August, 1881, would, I think, cover 100 square miles twenty-live feet deep, or the whole State of Connecticut, to a depth of six inches. Professor Dana estimates that the is rock material enough in Mauna Loa to make 125 Vesuviusos."

FRANCE AND RUSSIA.

DEMONSTRATION AT TOULON TO OFFSET THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

Paris, September 19. A note, emanating from Russian official sources as just declared that the approaching reception of the Imperial fleet at Toulon by the President of the French Republic is not intended as a provecation to the nations of the Triple Alliance at is simply a pacific act solemnly consecrating the political solidarity of France and Russia That some sort of a Franco-Russian alliance has been concluded was a secret to no one, after the Czar's official reception of the French fleet at 'roustadt in 1891. But it was still uncertain whether this reached further than a friendly understanding chiefly useful as a means of publi lemonstration against the turbulence of the youn German Emperor. Even now the exact nature of the alliance is not disclosed, but the Czar is leaving nothing unsaid or undone to make known the close union of the two nations in all that conerns their political action toward other countries The sweeping nature of such an alliance is

comething of a surprise in recent European polities. Its bearings are of far greater moment than a mere counter-coalition to the Triple Alliance it does more than break down the Chinese wall with which Bismarck strove to isolate France in Europe; and it more than answers any threatening ovement of Bismarck's successors against the for a few minutes; and then, upged by the accountable forces, from below, the united form tains borst forth together—a wave of roaring laya a mile in length burded at once to a height of a hundred feet. The semante jets displayed a rotary motion toward the south; and rocks were flung from them in this direction."

A touching picture is given by the Christian pastor of Hilo of the manner in which lugitives came flocking thither. "They came like Jobs of another. This nan says, "My house is falled my wife and two children are dead," and I only am left to fell thee. "Another comes to me saying, "I was cathe with my family in my house by the sanside, when suddenly a great wave struck the building, and, of sky. I am left along to tell thee." Another comes to me saying was in the field catching on the share, when a wave took them out to see, a and I am left along to tell thee." Another hurries in and says, "I was in the field catching my longer of the seas secure. The counter-demonstration of an small with their families and houses in a noment."

THE LATEST GREAT ERUTION.

Colossus of the North. In favor of France, it keeps open the question of England's occupation of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the march of Expt, and it gives confidence to the m Colossus of the North. In favor of France, it keeps open the question of England's occupation ance along the lines laid down by Peter

The new alliance is thus likely to trouble ambitious governments quite as much as it re-assures their peoples, who are anxious for peac-and glad of any obstacle to impending wars. How long it will delay the inevitable future war remains to be seen. Meanwhile, it is a brilliant revival of the system of international politics which ruled Europe from the fall of the First Napoleon in 1815 to the downfall of Napoleon III in 1870. This was the system of the balance of rower, of which Englishmen fondly proclaim Thiers to have been the latest advocate.

A similar revival has taken place in the sys tem of protection. The recent treaties of commercial reciprocity among nations, and this new balance of conflicting political powers, are results of the same natural laws. They may yet make England regret her arrogance in the palmy days of her naval supremacy and monopolizing free-This Franco-Russian Alliance gives a les son to the world of what is really meant, at our present point of civilization, by the society of nations. Social philosophers find that progress makes for co-operation among the masses of men. buf there is certainly no sign of internationalism in Europe. The Behring Sea arbitration may have persuaded some few Americans of the good time coming; but a short application of their homemade tariff for revenue only would soon show that fheir commerce, if not their politics, is subject to the general laws of the struggle for existence and the survival of the strongest. Here in Europe, where commerce and politics and the play o entionalities are inextrically mixed, the operation of these inevitable laws has already driven free trade and universal peace to the same limbo of amiable speculation.

After the crushing defeat of France by Ger

many in 1871, the relations of the former countre with Russia remained for many years wha they had always been. So late as 1888, M. Anatole Leroy-Beaulien, the chief French authority on matters connected with the Empire of the Czars, wrote in the "Revue des Deux Mondes" to show how few points of contact existed between the two nations, how widely divergent is their whole scheme of politics. The only Frenchmen who looked at this time forward with hope to an alliance with Russia, to save their country from its painful isolution in Europe, had made themselves utterly discredited, The successors of Thiers in the administration of the Conservative Republic, especially the Duke Decazes, naturally looked to Russia for a restoration of the balance of power dear to them But the complete overthrow of the Conservative Government by the Radiculs in 1879 was not calculated to inspire confidence in the permanence of the Republic. It must also be confessed that the leaders of Radicalism, ending with M. Clemenceau, have never taken the initiative in seeking to ally their country with The Boulangist freebooters, who tried to profit by the Conservative reaction a few years later, only frightened the Czar with the violence of their protestations of friendship. A horror of the French Revolution is traditional with all the Czars. But the Republic triumphed under the strong hand of M. Constans, managing the general elections of 1889; and the Deputies allowed M. Freycinet to remain in the Ministry of War long enough to put France on a wur foeting that seriously disquieted Germany. With the esteem thus won from him by the Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

French Republic as a government of stability and power, the Czar soon joined reasons of di content and suspicion toward the Prussian ele ment in the German Empire.
From the partition of Poland for more than

a hundred years, down to the victory of Prussia over France, and the constitution of the new empire, there had been a tradition of common interests and good understanding between Russia Even Bismarck, while securing and Frussia. Austria by the Triple Alliance against the too rapid progress of Pan-Siavism, managed to allay the susceptibilities of the White Czar of all But his successors were less able the Slavs. or less far-sighted. A commercial war, in which Germany was the aggressor, wrought serious harm to Russian prosperity. Politically, Germany added the force of its own deliberate inertia to Austria's open opposition to Russia in Bulgaria and throughout the Danubian States. Italy, guided by its Prime Minister, Crispi, jumped from Vaticanophobia to a narrow Germanomania. England, alarmed by the steady Russian advance on India, gave signs of making common cause with the Triple Alliance. The Czar awakenes to the fact that Russia was becoming as isolated on the cust as France had become on the The remedy was not far to seek. In May o 1891 the Czar conferred the Order of St. Andrew on President Carnot. Shortly afterward be visited in person the French Exposition at Toward the end of July the Frenc's fleet was received with unheard-of pomp and parade at Cronstadt. The Czar, in the uniform of a Russian admiral, with the Czerina and accompanied by the Queen of Greece (the Czar's cousi and her children, and by all the Grand Dake- and Grand Duchesses, went on board the French ships and afterward received at lunch on the in perial yacht the French admiral and command ants with the French ambassador. telegrams were publicly exchanged between the Czar and the French President, and for ten days nothing was left undone to display to all Europe the fact that some kind of a France Russian alliance had been concluded.

With all this, however, England and the mem ers of the Triple Alliance did not take serious Perhaps it was not intended that they should. The French fleet hastened to touch reessuringly at Portsmouth and receive the surprised hospitality of England, while the Russian Minister of Foreign Anairs, M de Giers, made official visits impartially to the German Emperor, the Italian King and the French President. In October there was a general diplomazic smile when the seat of Russian financial operations was trans ferred from Berlin to Paris, and the Empire successfully floated a loan of 500,000,000 francs in 3 per-cents on the French people. The needy Czar, so it was assumed, had a tat-ly found the means of tapping the richest country in Europe. The words of warning of Prince Bismarck, harshly criticising from his retirement the blunder made by his successor in alienating Russia from Germany, were considered the croaking of a statesman

The year of 1892 passed, and the Alliance, if it did not grow stronger in outward show, at least gave no signs of weakening. The Grand Dukes came, as they had done the previous year, Dukes came, as they had done the previous year, to receive the official courtedes of the President of the French Republic. But the scandals of the Panama presecutions begun, and it was thought that Russia would make no further advances toward so uncertain a government. The German war-lord flaunted the strength of the Triple Alliance more fiercely than ever in the face of the Republic, and Siam came to alienate England yet further. It was precisely at this time, before the general elections could prove that France remained invincibly attached to the Republic according to President Curnot, that the Czar deliberately planned the present demonstrations. More than anything first has gone before, these are intended to make known the hard and fast alliance of the two countries in all their foreign relatives. Their common adversaries may alliaberate with ghastly smites to the probabilities of a new relations. Their common adversariases may aliade-with ghastly smiles to the probabilities of a new Russian loan, or may deprecate uneasily the dangers of the extreme French enthusiasm which is being called forth. But the fact remains. And though it will be long before the secret history and exact limits of this Franco-Russian Alliance-are known, it is already certain that the initiative of the Czar and his advisers in giving has been as great as the inordinate willingness of the French Government to receive.

It is useless to try to foresee in detail the out-come of such an alliance. A single unforeseen

ome of such an alliance. A single unforescent vent would defeat all definite calculations. The event would defeat all definite calculations. The leath of Emperor Francis Joseph, who for nearly fifty years—in spite of cruel odds, and with but varying success—has still been the international staying force of Europe, would change the whole aspect of affairs. But the great general outlines of the situation, in its actual bearings, stand out clearly.

In the first place, France has a direct and sufficient reply to the latest provocations of Germany and Italy. The Czar has delighted to honor her before the smoke has cleared from these lost provinces, whither the Kaiser led the Crown Prince of uncrateful Italy, made a kingdom by France, to witness the manocuvers of his army

honor her before the smoke has cleared from these lost provinces, whither the Kaiser led the Crown Prince of ungrateful Italy, made a kingdom by France, to witness the manoeuvres of his army and listen to his own words of triumph. And France has thus been justified in that national exclusivism which is dear to the hearts of her people under all regimes.

Second, France has assured herself that England's occupation of Egypt shall not gain the right of prescription. It is now sure to remain an open question, ready to be taken up af the first opportunity; for here Russia's interests are doubly coincident with those of France. This is also the case in the Far East, where the newly awakened French fever of colonization finds aid and confort on one side of British India, in the corresponding position of Russia on the other. Even the principle of buffer States, accepted in the late trouble about Siam, is a restriction of that limitless power which England once seemed destined to exercise throughout the East.

Third, Russia makes her final entrance into the Mediterranean Sea. It will take more than mere questioning in the Erglish Pirliament about treaty limits to drive her fleet out again. It is not France alone whose heart is thus gladdened. Spain, too, feels relieved from the dark frown of Gibraltar. Greece has everything to hope territorically from Russia. And even the unspeakable Turk, much as he fears the Russian Bear, remembers that the British Lion's claws have scratched him the last.

Fourth, by the Russia and France hold Germany between them bound to a reinous expectiture of men and money to keep up an armament sufficient to offset them both in time of peace, and overwhelmed with difficulties on each frontier in case of war.

Finally, if Russia, for the time being, is kept feen adapting the Slay populatiors of the Dan-

overwhelmed with difficulties on each robots a case of war.

Finally, if Russia, for the time being, is kept from absorbing the Slav populations of the Danube, still Austria, bound hand and foot to Germany, can no longer place permanent obstacles in the way. And Russia can afford to wait, as she has always done. She has secured another great stride forward in her century-long march on Constantinople and the East.

TENTS AS FERRY-BOATS. From The London Standard.

Some curious experiments have recently been made with the new tents which the German soldiers carry with them. The end in view is to make the tents, or rather their cloth, serve to construct ferry-boats for the soldiers' baggage. The importance of this military novelty for actual war is too great to be overlooked. Pioneers cannot always be at hand to build a bridge in cases where troops are unexpectedly obliged to cross a watercourse. To swim a stream in full accoutrement is not without danger even for the best swimmers. In future, however, the soldiers will be relieved from this necessity by the folding tents, which they carry with them. They will collect brushwood and small branches, with which to weave a light framework; the tent-cloth will be unfolded, laid over the framework, and fastened to it in such a manner that the water cannot pass through. The men will then strip and put all their baggage and accoutrements into the salicitof ferry-boats, which will effectually preserve them from getting wet. The soldiers then swim across, pushing the ferry-boats before them, so that they will reach the opposite shore with all their belongings dry. These experiments have been made on a large scale by the pioneers during their recently-terminated autumn exercises; and have led to very favorable results, both as to the time required and the trouble occasioned by the transformation. During the manoeuvres the experiments are being continued, and extended to the various branches of the service. From The London Standard.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

FHILOSOPHY AND FUN ON VARIOUS THEMES OF HUMAN INTEREST.

THE TEN-THUMBED MAN AND HIS DEPREDATIONS -A SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST PLATO AND SHAKESPEARE-A MAN TOO GOOD TO LIVE.

(Copyright: 1893; By Sam Walter Foss.)

THE TEN-THUMBED MAN. world goes wrong while on its surface lingers The man whose fingers all are awkward thumber. The man who has ten thumbs and has no fingers. All heaven-born order at his touch succumbs; Where'er he fumbles furniture quakes. Where'er he steps the very flooring shakes, The dishes rattle and the crockery breaks, And glass lies strewn about in broken crumbs,

And every object that obstructs his way; Then tangled with his own feet does he tumble And falleth o'er himself without delay. His march of triumph gapes with broken walls, From every fence tumultuousle he falls, Through all the startled scenery he sprawls, And strews a track of ruin through the day,

The man who has ten thumbs but has no finger He keeps his elbows out in every crowd, On crazed men's corns his placid foot still lingers, And on the silken trains of ladies proud. The sweet girl's bonnet lies a shapeless mass; The plate glass window is but broken glass. ugh crushed-out eyes does his umbrella pass And strong men curse and women weep alo Where'er he goes do brave men flee like rabbits,

They know his fatal, cataclysmic habits, And all his havor wrought beneath the sun, Where'er he goes is formless chaos brewing, The cosmos trembles at its own undoing And order yields her ancient reign to ruin-He blunders on until his work is done

He joins the club and straightway fatal faction Usurps the place where concord reigned before, Weaves his ten thumbs in every small transaction And harmony and peace are known no more; The milk of poetry turns to sour prose. Through that club's halls hot molten language flower The roof re-echoes with resounding blows And mangled clubmen strew the reeking floor.

To put down sin and all its deeds goes he. And then the peace which passeth understanding In that doomed church becomes an absentee. The pastor yields himself to slow despair, The choir's jangling fills the mangled air. The deacons fight and tear each other's hair.

The church disbands and Satan laughs in gleen

The man who has ten thumbs but has no finger Domestic peace ne'er sheds its gentle force Within the fated home where'er he lingers, Nor true love wends its unobstructed course. Within that home there sounds perpetual war, Discordant noise and altercation raw, And fluent frenzy fires his mother-in-law, And daily prays his wife for a divorce.

I'll sit beside the sneak thief and am willing At the same board to gather up the crumbs, And I'll embrace with love the vagrant villain Who plays on tremtones or who beats on drums I'll love the fool and tolerate the bore, Cherish the crank and bless him evermore, Last Fate-kind Fate-divert him from my do The tactless man whose fingers all are thumbs.

A SERIOUS LITERARY ROBBERY

The duty which I am now about to perform in very painful one, but a man shoul never permit his personal feelings to interfere with a performance He should perform it fearlessly, regardless of the faceration of his own personal I have some very serious charges to make against

plagiarism, and, that I may not be misunderstoo they are charges of theft. I make these charges boldly against Plato and William Shakespeare. Until quite recently, until I had discovered in-dubitable evidences of his infamy, I cherished nothing but the kindest feelings toward Plato. Personally, I may add, I liked the man, and frequently

in conversation I went out of my way to speak well of him. Plato was a good hand to write, and I have often said so to people I feel sure repeated the remark. But in reading Plato recently I made a discovery which has staggered me. I find that all through his books he has been using my ideas. Now I wish to be mild and moderate, and say nothing in

the heat of my feeling which I may repent of later; but I do think it is a perfect shame that this old heathen should make such a reputation out of my bleas, and that I should get no credit whatever for Why, I had not read two pages of his "Republ before I came across thoughts which I thought myself as long as five or six years ago, and which

I should have uttered myself if I had only possessed the flow of language to express them. On every page were ideas which that unscrupulous plagiarist, meanly taking advantage of my unavoidable absence, bodily stole from me several thousand years before I was born. Think of itl Robbery of the unborn! With what shameless haste this urgent thief pounced upon his booty.

The full extent of this man's robbery I am no yet prepared to state. I have not yet read all the

books of which he is the so-cailed author. But I am reading them with all the speed that the presam reading them will permit. And I find my ideas scattered all through them. Sometimes, it is true, I will read several pages without discovering any of my own thoughts. The narrative is dull. the ideas are commonplace, the thought is medi-ocre. I see nothing of mine in it. Then suddenly there will be a brilliant flash of genius, a sunburst of inspiration, and immediately I recognize the thought as my own.

Plato stole it. The very thought which I have long cherished, and which I should have long ago certain impediments in my intellectual faculties prevented.

Now the public must index between a substitute of the pressure of domestic cares and certain impediments in my intellectual faculties prevented.

long cherished, and which I should have long ago uttered had not the pressure of domestic cares and certain impediments in my intellectual faculties prevented.

Now the public must judge between me and this man. It will readily see at what a tremendous disadvantage I am placed. This man was more than two thousand years ahead of me, and had all the opportunity in the world to select and sort out my best thoughts and give them to the world before I had a chance to open my mouth.

In this way he has built up quite a reputation for himself, while I am utterly unknown in the matter. Our two names are never linked together. He gets all the credit, while I am utterly ignored. Is it too late for justice to be done me? Shall I make this appeal in vain? Is there no redress?

Then there is that man Shakespeare. William Shakespeare has always been well spoken of by me. I have never permitted an opportunity to go by to put in a good word for him. I have always maintained that he was a good writer, and said things in a cute way; and had it not been for certain discoveries which I have lately made in his writings I should still continue his friend. But that time has gone by. Henceforth our relations must remain strained.

In reading Shakespeare's works I find that he, like Plato, has unscrupulously stolen my thoughts, He and Plato are a pair. Arm in arm let me plilory them before the public gaze.

I had not read two pages of "Hamlet" before I said: "Why, this is mine. These are my thoughts, theye are my ideas. It is a mighty good plece, and Shakespeare knew it when he stole it."

Now I maintain that Shakespeare's reputation is built upon a false basis. He goes swaggering down the corridors of time under false pretences.

And the public can see in what a cavity he has deposited me. With shrewd and malignant cunning he picked out my best thoughts, and now I find that the ideas which I have left are really no better than this. My friends are really unreasonable to think that I can surpass Shakespeare, under the circumstances; fo